(vi) Aquaculture industry/shrimp culture industry/ shrimp culture ponds other than traditional and improved traditional may be set up/constructed outside the Coastal Regulation Zone with prior approval of the 'Authority'.

(vii) The authority, in consultation with expert bodies like National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Central Pollution Control Board, respective State Pollution Control Boards shall frame scheme/schemes for reversing the damage caused to the ecology and environment by pollution in the coastal States/Union Territories.

Persons Below Poverty Line

4706. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large section of people below poverty line in Kerala are deprived of the benefits of the Targeted Revised Public Distribution System (TRPDS) due to Centre's unscientific guidelines which are without giving any consideration to the special circumstances prevailing in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Emissions of Green House Gases

4707. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any in-depth study of the problem of environmental threat caused by emissions of greenhouse gases in India which is supposed to be sixth largest producer of carbondioxide emissions;

(b) if so, the details of the study made and the agency which had undertaken the study; and

(c) the steps being contemplated to combat the growing menace of this problem?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Under a Technical Assistance Project from the Asian Development Bank, the Government has completed in 1994 a study entitled "CLIMATE CHANGE IN ASIA: India Country Report" wherein analyses of vulnerability to climatic and weather related events, the potential impacts of climate change and preliminary estimates of National greenhouse gas emissions have been workedout. In this study, scientists and experts from various research institutions and universities such as National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi; Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi had participated.

(c) The Government is seized of the problem and is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. As per the existing obligations under this treaty, India is not required to adopt any national greenhouse gas reduction target (s). However, the country's existing legal and policy framework in the area of environment provides for combating the projected climate change.

Disease in Wheat Crops

4708. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a disease has been spread in the crop of wheat in North and Central Bihar due to which wheat has turned poisonous and the farmers have suffered huge losses;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme to compensate the farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware that Ear-cockle disease of wheat has been reported in some scattered patches in Gaya, Vaishali, Darbhanga and Madhubani districts in North and Central Bihar. The diseased galls are not edible but the gall free wheat grains are not poisonous. About 3 to 20% of the wheat grains have been found affected by the disease in the disease-affected areas.

(b) to (d) In view of reply to part (a) of the Question, Union Government have not formulated any scheme to compensate the farmers. However, soon after receipt of information about the occurrence of the disease, State/ Central Governments organised field surveys to assess the disease situation. Vigorous publicity and awareness campaign has been launched to educate the farmers to avoid recurrence of the disease in future by sowing disease-gall free seeds.

Assistance for Fodder Banks

4709. SHRI N. J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of financial assistance given to Gujarat for the setting up of fodder banks under the Centrally sponsored scheme 'Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development' during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent by the State under the scheme during the said period;

(c) whether the Central Government are aware of the alleged misappropriation of funds on this account; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Rs. 26.25 lakhs (Central share) was released to the State of Gujarat for setting up of a Fodder Bank during 1994-95 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. 'Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development'. The sanction was revalidated for utilisation during 1995-96.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected from the State Government and will be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Marine Environment

4710. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether shipping casualties in the Indian waters caused any harm to the marine environment;

(b) if so, the number of such casualties reported during 1995-96 and 1996-97 till date and the extent of pollution caused in each casualty; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent pollution of marine environment caused by the shipping casualties?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) As per the information of the Coast Guard Headquarters, so far there is no such report of damage to marine environment around India due to marine casualties. In 1995-96 no casuality was reported except a minor spill by Dredger Mandovi II of Visakhapatnam. In 1996-97, there were five reported marine casualties in which only one vessle MV Al-Hadi had spilled oil which was cleaned up by Coast Guard of Mumbai. A minor spill subsequent to a leak from an oil barge was caused in Hooghly river. This was controlled by Calcutta Port Trust.

(c) A National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan has been formulated and is in force which is co-ordinated by the Indian Coast Guard.

Disposal of Red Sanders

4711. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to permit them to dispose of 800 tonnes of red sanders in the State;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the total amount obtained by the State Government in disposing of the red sanders so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has permitted the export of value added items made out of Red Sanders wood.

(c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has called global tenders for export of value added items made out of Red Sanders wood. No material has been sold so far.

Accounting System in Super Bazar

4712. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI) : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bills of the suppliers pending for payment as on date;

(b) the date from which these are pending giving the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to discard the decentralised accounting system and unify the accounitng system as hithertofore; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) As per the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi there are about 2,500 bills amounting to Rs. 4.50 crores to be paid to the suppliers as on 30.4.97.

(b) Most of the bills mentioned at (a) above have been received by the Super Bazar, Delhi in the month of April, 97. However, receiving bill, processing it and making payment is a continuous process for the Super Bazar. The Super Bazar is normally making payment to the suppliers as per the agreed terms of payment. Sometimes due to non recovery of payment against credit sales made to the Govt., local bodies other institutions etc, the Super Bazar is unable to adhere to the payment schedule.